Healthy Watersheds Partnership
May 8, 2019 Meeting Agenda

10:30 am – 12:30 pm
CalEPA Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento
Conference Room 2310
Visitors – Please check in at the front desk

Item #	Time	Topic
1.	10:30 am	**Welcome, Roll Call, Announcement and Updates (Ali Dunn)**
2.	10:45 am	**Overview of Related Efforts: CalMAIN Concept and AB 1492 Ecological Performance Measures (Elizabeth Betancourt and Ali Dunn)**

- Purpose: To provide information about related watershed assessment efforts, namely CalMAIN concept and AB 1492 Ecological Performance Measures, and to exchange information.

- Goal: A multi-state agency effort, CalMAIN, aims to develop an agile, transparent multi-agency technology analytic space that can utilize the data architecture in the AB 1755 Open Water Data Platform to inform natural resource-based management questions. Assembly Bill 1492 directs the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program to develop a statewide ecological performance measures (EPM) approach as an accountability measure for the multiple State programs that regulate timber management on nonfederal forestlands. The goal of this item to share information and identify collaborative opportunities with these related efforts.

- Notes:
  - CalMAIN Concept (Elizabeth Betancourt)
    - CalMAIN to act as a resource for data, holistic tools/analyses to understand the cumulative effects/impacts facing forest ecosystems.
    - Internal resource for now, but eventually they would like to develop a public facing tool that conducts cumulative impacts analyses.
  - AB 1492 Ecological Performance Measures (Ali Dunn)
    - Focused on developing performance measures/indicators to inform timber regulations and increase accountability.
  - Discussion
    - Pete (CDFW)
      - Not all CDFW biogeographic datasets currently available to flow into outside efforts, like CalMAIN.
        - Polygons did not reflect watersheds, but that is changing - they are beginning to reflect watershed boundaries.
        - Focus on biodiversity and Areas of Conservation Efforts (ACE)

- CalMAIN seems similar to FRAP - Cal Fire/Forestry effort on a statewide or higher level; however spatial and temporal scale is different. FRAP representative (Rich Walker) member of AB 1492 working group.
- There are multiple parallel efforts, many terrestrially focused. Aquatic systems have so far been an afterthought. The Healthy Watersheds Partnership focus on aquatic systems could fill this much needed niche.
  - Nick (Water Quality Monitoring Council)
    - Clarified that:
      - CalMAIN's focus is internal and on regulatory tool development
      - Healthy Watersheds Partnership focus is external and on development of a technical resource space (i.e. not regulatory).
  - With respect to open data/data sharing, there are issues with associated with private lands data (gaps and quality).
    - Potential for these data to substantially improve models.
    - Need to figure out how to handle/share private/confidential data that is good for all parties.
- The next CalMAIN project has not been scheduled yet. At the last meeting, different agencies took leadership of different use cases. They will be working on these use cases, and also a governance document, through the fall.

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3. 11:15 am　　　**Web-based Watershed Assessment Tool – Workplan Overview (Lance Le, North Coast Regional Board)**

- Purpose: To describe a [workplan](#) to implement basin planning projects related to (a) assessing climate change vulnerability of beneficial uses and (b) creating a process for designating Outstanding National Resource Waters. Core to these projects is a reproducible, transparent, and interactive tool that allows staff and the public to perform their own assessments using readily available data. The workplan comprehensively describes the necessary tasks and [schedule](#) to create such a tool and its nexus with HWP goals.

- Goal: North Coast Water Board staff would like to have HWP participants be involved in this project as a scientific and technical advisory committee, especially during the literature review phase where methods, metrics, and indicators will be evaluated for inclusion in the tool. HWP participants may also consider being involved more directly, such as committing staff and other resources to accomplish tasks outlined in the workplan.
- [Slides](#)

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- Notes:
  - Attendees in strong support of tool. It would fill a huge need to transition from static reports to an adaptable, non-static, tool.
  - Developing a multi-faceted tool to measure climate change impacts, support ONRW designation, beneficial uses. Geographic scope is Region 1 (for now). In the future, can extend scope to the rest of the state.
  - Phase 1 of the project is focused on the details related to assessment (watershed health, watershed vulnerability, and determining ONRW eligibility). Phase 2 will add functionality allowing the user to create a profile and upload datasets.
  - Pete: While working on the original report, two tasks in particular were time-consuming.
    - 1) Defining the terms (ex. what is vulnerability)
    - 2) Do you want to work with existing datasets only or can you identify data that is not available yet?
  - Need Healthy Watersheds Partnership to help with literature review as outlined in schedule.
    - Used to answer questions like: what is the appropriate spatial scale/units (e.g. HUC12, catchment)? We may run into computational limitations if we go too small. Ideally the app would allow you to choose the spatial scale.
    - Participants will submit data via a [Google Form](#). If users experience issues with the form or have questions, emails Anna directly (anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov).
    - Action item: Will turn Lance's schedule on SharePoint into a Google spreadsheet or document so that anyone can access it. Those who want to help with this project can use the shared document to sign up/volunteer for specific tasks. Reach out to HWP members who did not attend this meeting.
  - Potential tools to consider:
    - SCCWRP Stream Quality Index (Marcus Beck)
      - Jacob Kaplan is working with Marcus on a water quality assessment data visualization. Ali will invite Jacob and Marcus to attend HWP meetings. **(Complete)**
    - Recovery Potential Screening Tool (Doug Norton, EPA)
      - Terry will send the link to Doug's tool to the group.
      - https://www.epa.gov/rps
    - EcoAtlas, although it doesn't do the same thing as integrated assessment tool; not focused on watershed process/function. Still, good potential for cross utility.
    - Portal overhaul will include references to available, relevant assessment tools and resources
  - Potential datasets/scripts to plug into tool:
    - CDFW ACE

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- ■ Constrained Stream Predictive Scripts (SCCWRP)
- ■ Natural flows datasets
- ■ TNC's freshwater species dataset
  - ○ Since the original integrated assessment was done in 2012 and the framework established, multiple and various related efforts have continued or since been established.
    - ■ I.e., multiple opportunities for collaboration and partnerships
    - ■ Also, important to communicate via HWP webpage, how various tools can be used to answer varying questions related to watershed, or waterbody, conditions.

4. 11:45 am   Portal Webpage Overhaul (Anna Holder, Sea Grant Fellow)

- ● <u>Purpose</u>: To provide updates on the portal webpage overhaul, and to get feedback on the utility of recommended changes.

- ● <u>Background</u>: Currently, the portal webpage only provides information on the background, membership, meetings and products associated with the Healthy Watershed Partnership/Healthy Streams Partnership. We would like to develop the page so it is a robust resource for those conducting integrated watershed assessments. The page(s) will include guidance on each phase of the assessment process, relevant literature and resources, and links to useful assessment tools, datasets and methods.

- ● <u>Notes</u>:
  - ○ No objections to proposal. Group supportive.
  - ○ Anna to also include a page for data gaps and research questions of interest to HWP. Use to be transparent about information that is still needed and use to guide potential future projects with collaborators, graduate students, etc.
  - ○ Anna to send mockups to Nick who will approve and submit to IT for publishing.
  - ○ Anna will present update at next meeting.
  - ○ Lance to present at the June 6th Water Quality Monitoring Council meeting

5. 12:20 pm   Wrap up
Review action items and next steps.

6. 12:30 pm   Adjourn

Skype Details

Item # Time   Topic

Online link: [Join Skype Meeting](#)
Call-in toll-free number: +1 (916) 562-0861, passcode: 86894177#